

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FOR DEPUTY SECTY LUERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJ: ILLEGAL ALIENS: PROPOSED MEETING OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS

REF: LUERS/CRIGLER TELCON OF 8/26/75

1. EMBOFF SPOKE TO LIC. BARONA LOBATO AS REQUESTED AND LEARNED THAT NOT MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD FIXING TIME AND PLACE FOR SUBJECT MEETING. BARONA SAID THAT COMMISSION HAD ALL BUT FIRMLY DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE THAT MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, DECISION AS TO WHEN AND WHERE WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT FONSEC RABASA'S RETURN AND PERSONAL ATTENTION. FONSEC WOULD ALSO HAVE TO CLEAR OFF ON PROPOSED AGENDA FOR MEETING, WHICH BARONA NOW DRAFTING.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, BARONA CONSIDERED IT UNLIKELY THAT MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. HE NOTED THAT MEXICAN COMMISSION'S PREPARATIONS FOR MEETING WOULD ALSO HINGE ON WHAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD TO SAY ABOUT THIS SUBJECT IN HIS SEPTEMBER 1 INFORME, FROM WHICH COMMISSION WOULD PRESUMABLY TAKE ITS POLITICAL CUE.

3. REGARDING SITE FOR MEETING, BARONA CONTINUES TO
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WANT TO HOLD SESSIONS AWAY FROM EITHER NATIONAL CAPITAL

AND PREFERABLY IN A BORDER AREA AFFECTED BY ILLEGAL ALIEN PROBLEM, EITHER ON U.S. OR MEXICAN SIDE. HE HAS NAMED SAN DIEGO, EL PASO, JUAREZ, DENVER AND TIJUANA AS POSSIBLE SITES.

4. EMBOFF MENTIONED TO BARONA THAT, IF MEXICANS FOUND IT USEFUL AND POLITICALLY CONVENIENT, U.S. COMMITTEE MIGHT BE WILLING TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES FOR A "MINI-MEETING" TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE TWO COMMISSIONS. HE NOTED THAT IT MIGHT BE WELL TO SETTLE ON AN AGENDA FOR THE MEETINGS IN THIS FASHION. BARONA EXPRESSED LIVELY INTEREST IN THIS POSSIBILITY AND WONDERED WHETHER THE SUGGESTION WAS BEING MADE OFFICIALLY OR PRIVATELY. EMBOFF SAID IT WAS "SEMI-OFFICIAL" AND MIGHT BE FIRMED UP LATER DEPENDING ON GOM INTEREST IN THE IDEA. BARONA PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH ON THIS ASPECT.

5. COMMENT: AS MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO MOVE AHEAD, EITHER WITH FULL-DRESS MEETING OF BOTH COMMISSIONS OR WITH "MINI-MEETING", IT APPEARS WE ARE LOCKED INTO A SLOW MOTION SCENE BECAUSE OF POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES HERE. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY SUFFICIENT INTERNAL DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE MEXICAN COMMISSION TO REQUIRE THAT EVEN A DECISION TO HOLD MEETING WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS HAVE HIGHEST LEVEL CLEARANCE, AND HIGHEST LEVEL IS VERY MUCH TAKEN UP WITH OTHER BUSINESS LEFT HANGING DURING ECHEVERRIA'S SIX-WEEK ABSENCE. BELIEVE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT "MINI-MEETING" IDEA COULD HELP MOVE MATTERS ALONG SOMEWHAT MORE RAPIDLY AND THAT IF BARONA RESPONSE IS IN ANY WAY POSITIVE WE SHOULD FORMALIZE OUR PROPOSAL AND EVEN SUGGEST DATES ON WHICH U.S. COMMITTEE REPS MIGHT VISIT HERE.
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